

BIOGRAPHY OF
F. LOUIS SULSBERGER
GRAND EXALTED RULER
2007-2008

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the U.S.A.

F. Louis Sulsberger was born on April 24, 1952, the sixth of nine children of James Carroll Sulsberger and Virginia Lucille McGannon. He and his siblings were raised in a single parent household after his mother died suddenly on December 25, 1962. Because of this experience, a special bond was formed with his brothers, sisters, nephews and nieces, and they remain extremely close today. Lou, as he is known to family and friends, is proud that they are an integral part of each other's lives.

Lou attended St. Stephen's Catholic Grammar School and graduated in 1966. His high school years were spent at Flora Township High School from which he graduated in 1970. During his high school years, he mowed lawns and worked in a grocery store as a stock boy to help out at home. He also "rough necked" on his father's oil drilling rig, a job he treasured as he worked alongside his Dad.

After high school, Lou attended Olney Central College. When he completed his studies, he became an independent petroleum land man working in the Illinois Basin, which comprises parts of Illinois, Indiana and Western Kentucky. These interests led him to form his own oil company: Lou-Lin-Co., Inc. in 1983, where he serves as President to this date. Decreased activity in the oil production business brought Lou into his next venture which was utility right-of-way work throughout the Midwest.

Despite all his traveling, he found time to be involved in the Sons of the American Legion, the Flora Jaycees and the Olney Petroleum Club. Lou is a lifelong member of St. Stephen's Catholic Church in Flora. On August 13, 1988, Lou married the love of his life, Elizabeth Marie Putbrese. Soon, he realized there was more to living than traveling throughout the Midwest. In 1990, he began a career in the automotive industry at a local General Motors dealership. He continued his career in sales, becoming sales manager in 2002. That career change enabled him to work locally in the community he was born and raised in, while Beth pursued a career in banking. She has achieved the position of Vice President, and her twenty years of experience in the banking industry brings a wealth of knowledge and service to the community.

Lou was initiated into Flora Elks Lodge No. 1659 in October, 1973. That was when he became imbued with the fires of Elkdom. He served on various Lodge committees, progressed through the chairs, and was elected Exalted Ruler for the 1986-1987 fraternal year, where he served with distinction. After serving as Exalted Ruler, Lou was elected to his Lodge's Board of Trustees and served as its Chairman in 1988-1989. Lou's love of Ritual was developed when he competed as an Officer of the Flora Lodge. He then continued his devotion to it by serving as a Ritual Coach for the Lodge team for five years. Under his direction, they were State Champions each of those years. In 1992, the Flora Lodge recognized Lou's many contributions to the Lodge and the community by honoring him as their "Elk of the Year."

During this time, Lou was also an active Elk at the district and state levels. During 1988-1989, he was elected Vice President of the Illinois Southeast District. Lou served as the State Tiler in 1992-1993, and was a five-year member of the Board of Directors of the state's major project: The Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation. After serving on various state committees, including Ritual, Membership and Protocol, Lou progressed through the three State Vice President positions, and was elected President of the Illinois Elks Association in 1998-1999, where he again displayed his leadership qualities.

His service at the national level is also exemplary. In 1990-1991, he was District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler to Grand Exalted Ruler James W. Damon. Lou served as a member of the Grand Lodge Ritualistic Committee from 2000 to 2003. In 2003, he was elected to the Board of Grand Trustees where he served as Building Applications—East Member, Pension Member, Home Member, and was Chairman of the Board in 2006-2007.

F. Louis Sulsberger is the quintessential Elk who leads by example, rather than by words. He lives the cardinal principles of our Order: Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. Lou and Beth look forward to spreading the message of the good works of this Fraternal Order they love. They believe that together, we can accomplish anything. We are "**Elks — United to Serve Others!**"